



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

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**NESTOR GARCIA**

Councilmember

District 9

(808) 547-7009 {Voice}

(808) 523-4220 {Fax}

e-mail: [ngarcia@co.honolulu.hi.us](mailto:ngarcia@co.honolulu.hi.us)

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Darrell Young  
Office of Councilmember Nestor Garcia, District 9  
Ph. 547-7009 (office) or 341-7857 (cell)

### **WAIKELE RESIDENTS JOIN BATTLE AGAINST DRUGS, CRIME IN THE COMMUNITY**

(WAIPAHU, HI) – In response to community concerns, Councilmember Nestor Garcia and the Waikele Community Association are co-sponsoring a drug awareness forum today at 6:30 p.m. at Waikele Elementary School.

To help kick off this forum, members of the Good Beginnings Alliance, Hope Chapel West Oahu, and community leaders and volunteers will be conducting a sign-waving effort from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at three locations in Waikele – along Paiwa Street (fronting Lowe's), at the intersection of Lumiaina and Lumiauwau streets, and at the intersection of Lumiauwau Street and Kamehameha Highway. Around 100 sign-holders are expected.

The featured speaker this evening is Keith Kamita of the Honolulu Police Department Narcotics Division. Mr. Kamita will speak on the effects drugs have on a community and provide tips on how to recognize symptoms of drug abuse.

In late September, Garcia challenged Waipahu area residents to answer the call in the battle against drugs in the communities. A massive sign-waving demonstration was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, with almost 500 people lining one end of Farrington Highway to the other through Waipahu.

Stated Councilmember Garcia, "I appreciate the hard work and determination provided by the Board and employees of the Waikele Community Association to help coordinate their community's fight against drugs. It is only through community action and neighbors willing to stand together and fight that we will be able to begin to win the war on crime."

Added Mitsuo Shito, President of the Waikele Community Association, "While we may not have many drug houses in our community, we continue to be affected by drug-related crimes such as thefts and burglaries. As evidenced by a recent arrest of individuals, our homes have been targeted by thieves wanting to gain access to saleable merchandise to pay for their habits. Thankfully, our Association's practice of using off-duty police to randomly patrol our community has paid great dividends in helping to keep crime down in our neighborhoods. It has been money well spent."

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